

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

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FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 25712 ACTION DEPT INFO USUN AMMAN
JIDDA TEL AVIV OCT 30TH

QUOTE

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NESCO

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: UNESCO RESOLUTION ON JERUSALEM

REF: PARIS 25558

1. CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS INDICATE THAT JERUSALEM
RESOLUTION, NOW ALSO CO-SPONSORED BY INDIA, WILL HAVE
BETTER THAN EVEN CHANCE OF PASSAGE. LIKELY BE LARGE
NUMBER OF ABSTENTIONS. W.E. 9 WILL MEETING TOMORROW --
THURSDAY -- TO FORMULATE A POSITION. FRANCE IS CURRENT
CHAIRMAN.

2. PERM REP. HAD PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS WITH SEVERAL
ARAB DELEGATES AND THEY WERE UNIFORMLY INTRANSIGENT.
LENGTHLY CONVERSATION WITH DR. AHMED MOHAMMAD ALI,
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DEPUTY MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF SAUDI ARABIA, INDICATED

ARABS ARE ADAMANT IN PRESSING FOR SUB. PARA. 3 OF FINAL PARAGRAPH. HE HAS BEEN ONE OF MOST FRIENDLY AND OUTGOING OF ARAB DELEGATES AT GENERAL CONFERENCE AND IS A GRADUATE OF U.S. UNIVERSITIES. DR. AHMED REFUSED TO BUDGE FROM RESOLUTION LANGUAGE AND REPEATEDLY STATED STRONG VIEWS CLAIMING ISRAEL HAS NOT LIVED UP TO PREVIOUS UNESCO RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING NOT EXCAVATING AROUND THE SITES OF THE HOLY MOSLEM MONUMENTS.

3. CONVERSATION WITH INDIAN PERM REP. AND WITH SEVERAL AFRICAN DELEGATES INDICATE LITTLE SYMPATHY FOR ISRAEL IN ITS HANDLING OF THE MONUMENTS ISSUE. LIKELY MANY AFRICANS WILL ABSTAIN AND THOSE WHO DO NOT WILL VOTE AGAINST.

4. IN CONTRAST, LATIN AMERICANS SEEM FEEL RESOLUTION HAS GONE TOO FAR. AMB. CANCINO OF MEXICO HAS AGREED TO INTRODUCE LANGUAGE AMENDING AND SOFTENING THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE RESOLUTION. HOWEVER, BASED ON ADAMANT ARAB STAND IT IS QUESTIONABLE IF AMENDMENT WILL PASS.

5. PERM REP. ALSO HAD PRIVATE CONVERSATION WITH DG MAHEU AND ASKED HIM TO USE HIS INFLUENCE TO MODERATE ARAB POSITION. MAHEU AGREED TO MAKE EFFORT BUT WAS NOT OPTIMISTIC OF PROSPECTS. HE WILL MAKE AN INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT IN THE COMMISSION WHEN THE ITEM COMES UP ON MONDAY. MAHEU STATED HIS STATEMENT WOULD NOT BE LIKED BY EITHER SIDE AND THAT HE WOULD OUTLINE STEPS NEEDED TO BE TAKEN TO PROTECT THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF JERUSALEM. HE ALSO AGREED TO SEND PERM. REP. COPIES OF THE UNPUBLISHED PARTS OF THE REPORT OF THE BELGIUM WHO INSPECTED THE MONUMENTS FOR UNESCO.

6. COMMENT: OVERVIEW SEEMS INDICATE RESOLUTION WILL PASS IF PUT TO VOTE, BUT WITH MANY ABSTENTIONS. WHETHER OR NOT W.E. 9 WILL VOTE AGAINST SHOULD BE KNOWN TOMORROW. ISRAELIES HAVE BEEN MEETING WITH DELEGATIONS BUT THEIR LEVERAGE WITH THE THIRD WORLD IS LIMITED AT BEST. AS MONUMENTS ISSUE INVOLVES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SACRED MOSLEM PLACES EMOTIONS ARE HIGH, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE MORE ORTHODOX AND CONSERVATIVE ARABS, I.E. THE SAUDI ARABIANS. JDL TYPE DEMONSTRATION PROTESTING PLO AT UNESCO DELEGATES BUILDING THIS AFTERNOON IN WHICH RED PAINT WAS THROWN AND GUARDS ROUGHED WILL CERTAINLY NOT HELP CALM ATMOSPHERE. (SEE SEPARATE CABLE REPORTING INCIDENT).
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